PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY

2017-18 PROFILE FOR COLLEGES

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY is a coed, independent, residential school celebrating 237 years of fostering curiosity and cultivating potential. The Harkness method of instruction, with 12 students and one instructor working together around one table, originated here and defines our institutional culture. The Exeter experience is infused with critical thinking, thoughtful discourse and collaboration.

In 1781, our founder charged instructors that “the disposition of the minds and morals of the youth under their charge will exceed every other care.” Exeter today maintains a fierce commitment to uniting goodness and knowledge. We admit students from diverse backgrounds who combine proven intellectual ability and tenacity with good character. We have high expectations for their behavior. All seniors sign an honesty and integrity statement. We expect them to uphold the values inherent in Exeter’s founding principles.

LIFE AT EXETER: About 80% of our students and 70% of our faculty live on campus. Exeter’s dorm structure, including the option to live in one of two new “all gender” houses, creates a special community diverse in its ages, interests, genders and backgrounds.

Exeter students are busy people. Harkness courses are demanding, and classes run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on most weekdays. In addition to their five-course load, all students are required to participate in physical education. To satisfy the fine arts requirement, many students take music lessons or perform with choral and/or instrumental groups. Both required and optional events supplement classroom instruction. Students have access to student-run affinity groups and service clubs. Two state-of-the-art buildings, a field house and a theater and dance center, will open this year.

SPECIAL ON-CAMPUS ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES:
Exeter Innovation courses (transcript EXI) promote creativity across all disciplines. Curiosity and scholarship drive academic innovation at Exeter, and these new experiential opportunities embrace the confluence of classroom learning at the Harkness table and meaningful, immersive experiences in co- and extracurricular activities. Please see the Courses of Instruction book for detailed descriptions of each EXI offering.

Senior Projects (transcript SRP) allow students to conduct in-depth exploration of a topic of personal interest. Affirming the school’s philosophy that education takes place outside as well as within traditional classrooms, seniors may design, with full faculty approval, one individual or joint project of comparable value and scope to those of an academic course.

Field Courses (transcript 999) involve advanced and, in appropriate measure, independent study in a field of special interest and competence. Qualified students who have exhausted course offerings in a particular discipline may propose a topical field course as part of their program.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Each year our students earn national and international distinction. In 2017, students won 31 awards in the Scholastic Art Awards of New Hampshire competition; one senior was a Regeneron Science Talent Search finalist; and another was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, earning a $10,000 prize for their Scholastic Gold Medal Portfolio of literature and poetry. A rising senior earned a gold medal and placed sixth overall as a member of the U.S. International Mathematical Olympiad team, and two students placed in the top eight at the national Future Business Leaders of America conference.

OUR TRANSCRIPT: Exeter uses a trimester schedule. Fall term grades are available in early December; winter term grades are available in early March. Midterm grades are not available. By faculty vote, class rank is not reported. Grades and grade point averages (GPA) are not weighted. The cumulative GPA is calculated using only Exeter coursework.

Academic work is evaluated on an 11-point grading scale; a grade of ‘A’ equals 11 points, ‘A-’ equals 10, ‘B+’ equals 9, etc. The highest possible grade is A; the minimum passing grade is D-. A grade of E equals failure. Students not meeting minimum attendance requirements will receive a NC (no-credit) in lieu of a letter grade; required courses must be repeated. Students receiving a low grade may choose (with faculty permission, and with no additional credit earned) to repeat a course before moving on. Some coursework is taken on a pass (P) or no-pass (NP) basis, including (by faculty vote) all ninth-grade courses during the fall term. Music instruction or participation, beyond the number of courses that may earn credit (1/3 credit per term), will show a grade of NC. Academic distinctions are offered at the end of each term for students earning Honors (B+/8.0+); High Honors (B+/9.0+); and Highest Honors (A+/10.0+). A small number of high achieving seniors receive early cum laude distinction every October.
COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2015-2017
Our college counselors help students choose schools appropriate to their interests, where they can build upon their Exeter educational foundation. Our student body celebrates a diverse matriculation list, with 99% of graduates attending four-year institutions.

20+ students:
U.S.: Brown, Columbia, Chicago, Georgetown, Harvard, Michigan, MIT, NYU, Tufts, Yale

10+ students:
U.S.: Amherst, Bowdoin, UC Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, Colby, Cornell, Dartmouth, UMass Amherst, UPenn, Princeton, Scripps, Stanford, Wesleyan, Williams

5+ students:

International: McGill

2+ students:

International: Durham, King’s College, Oxford, St. Andrews, U. Toronto, Yale–NUS

1 student:

International: ITESM Monterrey, Queen’s University, University of Music & Performing Arts Vienna

STANDARDIZED TESTING: Test scores are not recorded on the transcript. Of the class of 2018, 11 seniors are National Merit Semifinalists and 74 qualified as National Merit Commended Students.

CLASS OF 2017 AVERAGES

SAT

V: 710  M: 720 (as of January 2017)

ACT

E: 33  M: 31

R: 32  S: 31

COMPOSITE: 31

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: All academic departments offer courses well beyond the normal secondary school level, which is why we are not part of the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program. The distribution of scores is: 5 or 4 – 90%; 3 – 7%; 2 or 1 – 3%.

COURSE LEVELS AND DESIGNATIONS: Because no two Exeter transcripts look alike, the following can be used as a guide to understanding Exeter’s curricular rigor. For all courses, please note: The presence of an (*) asterisk or the words “Accelerated,” “Advanced,” “Enriched,” or “Intensive” in the title indicate courses taught at a college-level pace often using college texts. Course number designations ending in ‘1’ indicate an enhanced section; student enrollment is by faculty selection.

>60% of 470 COURSES ARE ACCELERATED/COLLEGE LEVEL

FOR 10 FOREIGN LANGUAGES

17 OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Beginning with the class of 2017, applicants will present a hybrid transcript combining former (pre-2016) course numbering with revised course numbering. The change is a result of a two-year faculty review to account for the depth and breadth of coursework and to acknowledge the level of intellectual inquiry that is unusual for a secondary school curriculum (see graph).

COURSE RIGOR BY DEPARTMENT CLUSTER

Compiled using post-2015 course numbering

HUMANITIES

SCIENCE/MATH

LANGUAGES

FINE/PERF ARTS

FOR 10 FOREIGN LANGUAGES

17 OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

For a detailed explanation of Exeter’s diploma requirements, including the Classical Diploma, review our online Courses of Instruction: www.exeter.edu/coi.

FORMER (PRE-2016) COURSE NUMBERING

100 Introductory level

200 Intermediate level

300 Advanced intermediate level

400 AP Exam or first-year college level

500 & 600 Second- to fourth-year college level

999 Independent field course or tutorial

REVISED (2016 +) COURSE NUMBERING

100 Preparatory level

200 Intermediate/Advanced level

300 SAT II Subject Test preparatory level

400 AP Exam or first-year college level

500 First- or second-year college level

600 & 700 College major equivalency

999 Independent field course or tutorial